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**CONFIDENTIAL****REPORT OF ACTIVITY DURING INVESTIGATION**

<b>WARDEN:</b>	Personnel Investigation of Warden Frank Bowen.	<b>DATE OF ACTIVITY:</b>	March 2012
<b>CASE:</b>	Nash/Cottle Case Beaverhead County	<b>CASE OFFICER:</b>	Warden Captain Jeff Darrah

**Narrative of Activities:** On 3/5/2012 I was contacted by FWP LE Chief Jim Kropp regarding a personnel investigation involving Game Warden Frank Bowen. Chief Kropp asked that I look into some allegations of misconduct by Frank Bowen, which were made by Lake County Attorney Mitch Young. County Attorney Mitch Young sent an e-mail to Chief Kropp and he cc'd nine other people see attached documents labeled as "Exhibit 1". The following is a list of accusations made by County Attorney Mitch Young:

- Files were poorly organized
- Cases rely mostly on rumor and hearsay and contained irrelevant information
- Frank supposedly included accusations that he were not true
- In at least one case (insinuating that there were more) it is alleged by CA Mitch Young that Frank Bowen threatened a witness in order to compel her to make a statement
- Several others supposedly have reported that they too were threatened according to CA Mitch Young
- CA Mitch Young states that in many files transcriptions or recordings are missing
- CA Mitch Young states that the case files are devoid of probable cause that in good faith he could not see wasting the AG's Office's time
- CA Mitch Young alleges Frank Bowen's work is nothing short of sloppy police work

- CA Mitch Young states that he requested additional information regarding the cases and to the date of the e-mail he had not received not a single interview statement (Exhibit 2 shows an e-mail response to CA Mitch Young from Captain Lee Anderson)

In CA Mitch Young's e-mail that is marked as (Exhibit 1) it is stated that Frank submitted five additional files including two files alleging offenses in other counties (Ravalli and Beaverhead). The Ravalli and Beaverhead County reports were not cases for him to prosecute; it was just informational to him. (According to R1 Captain Lee Anderson, also Cpt. Anderson stated that he assisted Warden Bowen with his case reports)

CA Mitch Young conducted an investigation of his own according to his e-mail. The case that CA Mitch Young looks into involves Polson Police Chief Wade Nash and Polson Police Officer Clint Cottle. Nash and Cottle are alleged to have been involved in shooting an elk for a juvenile named Reno Lindesmith. (See Exhibit 3 case report prepared by Warden Frank Bowen)

It is obvious that CA Mitch Young has talked with the suspects regarding the case in Beaverhead County when he makes the statement in his e-mail "According to the individuals there, Reno shot the elk in the chest and knocked it down." CA Mitch goes further to state that the elk was down and alive and Reno was unable to shoot it again, so Clint shot the elk in the head to finish it. As far as I know CA Mitch Young has not discussed this matter with the witness Levi Reid. In exhibit 3 (the Bowen case report) witness Levi Reid states the following: Cottle told him that Reno shot at the elk and they ran down the hill. The elk stopped and looked back at them. Cottle told Reid that he shot the closest cow elk of the herd in the back of the head with his .300 Win Mag (See Levi Reid Interview 1/27/2012 Exhibit 4). This is quite different then the image of an elk lying down dying vs. a herd of elk running away and the last elk in herd standing looked back at them and Cottle shot it in the head.

CA Mitch Young states that Frank Bowen provided no recording or transcript of his interview with Reid which CA Mitch Young states is consistent with Bowen's prior practice. Warden Bowen has provided me with a copy of this interview with Reid as it is available to the County Attorney that is potentially prosecuting this case in Beaverhead County. CA Mitch Young states that Bowen has no support for his theory that Reno did not shoot the elk, this is not a theory this is what Lake County Deputy Levi Reid stated in an interview. Deputy Reid states that Cottle told him this story, this is not "hearsay" evidence in my opinion, this is a law enforcement officer testifying to what he was told directly to him by the person that committed the act.

As CA Mitch Young continues his investigation in the Beaverhead County elk case he states in his e-mail that a MHP Officer Randy Owens talked to him regarding this case. According to CA Mitch Young Owens admitted to being in the camp of Nash and Cottle in 2009 when this incident occurred. Owens stated the following to CA Mitch Young; Owens told Bowen that Reno showed him-and Randy personally observed-the hole in the elk's chest where Reno shot the elk. CA Mitch Young stated that Owens told him that Bowen stated with words to the effect of, "that doesn't help my case."

CA Mitch Young goes on to state that Warden Bowen did not include Owens statement in his report, thus Warden Bowen has arguably committed a criminal violation MCA 45-7-208(1)(c) which would accuse

Warden Bowen of withholding exculpatory evidence. CA Mitch Young requested that FWP look into these matters and provide him a report of the investigation.

I focused my investigation in this matter on the Beaverhead County elk case and the following is what I discovered.

**March 9, 2012 "Interview of Mike Gehl"**

Mike Gehl is listed as a witness in Warden Bowen's case report of the Beaverhead elk case # FG 112-08282010-1. I interviewed Gehl and the following facts are what surfaced. (I did not tape the interview, but did take notes) the following is not everything in my notes, but what I feel are the highlights.

- Gehl is a Lake County Deputy and at the time of this incident was the president for the officers union of Lake County
- Gehl stated that Lake County Deputy Kim Leibenguth was the secretary of the union at this time and that she was the mother of Reno Lindesmith the juvenile that supposedly shot the elk in this case
- Gehl stated that he knew of the investigation into the Beaverhead County elk case and that he had a discussion with Deputy Leibenguth about cooperating with the investigation by letting her son be interviewed regarding the matter
- Gehl stated that he told Leibenguth that it could be considered obstruction if she did not cooperate in the investigation
- According to Gehl this is when Leibenguth got mad and stated that no one was going to talk to her son regarding this and as far as she was concerned her son shot the elk
- When asked if Warden Frank Bowen requested that Gehl talk to Kim Leibenguth, Gehl stated that he did that on his own and not at the request of warden Frank Bowen
- Gehl did state that he felt Frank Bowen was a standup guy and he felt that it was wrong for CA Mitch Young to be complaining about Frank

I interviewed Gehl in St. Ignatius at his home at 63134 Chawlian Road.

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**March 9, 2012 "Interview of MHP Sgt. Randy Owens"**

Randy Owens is not listed as a witness in Warden Frank Bowen's original case report. CA Mitch Young makes note of this in his e-mail to Chief Kropp. By Frank not including Randy Owens in the report CA Mitch Young alleges that Frank Bowen is withholding exculpatory evidence in the Beaverhead County elk case. I interviewed MHP officer Randy Owens in Polson, MT and the following is a summary of that interview. (I took notes and did not tape the interview)

- Owens acknowledged that he was in camp in 2009 in the Bloody Dick area near Dillon, MT with Wade Nash, Clint Cottle, Reno Lindesmith, Levi Reid and another guy Randy thought was Levi's uncle (it was actually Levi Reid's father Tim Reid).

- Owens stated that he was later reminded that Corey Anderson was also present in camp with one of kids, but he had forgotten they were there
- Owens stated that he arrived in the camp sometime after dark and he was told by Clint Cottle that a kid in camp killed a cow, but he didn't go look at the animal until the next day.
- Owens stated that they were up late the night he arrived as they were waiting for Levi Reid to show up.
- Owens stated that there was alcohol in the camp and there had been some drinking going on.
- Owens stated that Levi didn't show up until late that night and that Reid had vehicle trouble
- Owens stated that he drove to the ranch house where Levi Reid was stranded at, Owens stated that he called a wrecker for Reid and that he gave him a ride back to camp that night.
- Owens stated that he was up most of the night and had gotten very little sleep.
- Owens stated that some time the next day Reno took him over to show him his elk.
- Owens stated that there a small hole near the shoulder that the kid pointed out.
- Owens was clear that he saw no other wounds on the elk that was in camp and he stated that there was only one elk in camp. Owens stated that he was positive there was only one bullet hole in the elk.
- Owens knew that Reno had used a small caliber gun that he borrowed from Wade Nash.
- Owens stated that Cottle was shooting a large caliber gun either a 7MM or a .300 Win Mag.
- Owens stated that he was best friends with Clint Cottle that they had been friends for some time.
- I asked Owens if Cottle had told him the story of the elk hunt. Owens stated that what was told to him was that Nash, Cottle and Reno were driving up the road they spotted some elk and Reno got out and made a long shot on an elk. I pushed Owens here stating that Cottle has told a different version than yours. I stated that best friends tell each other things that they wouldn't tell others. I asked "This is the story that Cottle told you?" Owens affirmed that it was.
- Later in the interview Owens stated that he thought the hunters had split up and Wade Nash went one way and Cottle and Reno went another.
- I asked Owens again if it was possible that there was a bullet wound in the head or neck and Owens stated that he was positive that there were not any head wounds.
- I asked Owens if they had recovered the bullet and he stated that he did not think so.
- I asked Owens if he knew that Warden Frank Bowen was investigating this elk and he said yes I knew he was looking into it.
- I stated that Frank had been looking into this for awhile and you were aware of this and Owens acknowledged that he knew this. I asked Owens "Why he didn't come forward and tell Frank that he was there?" Owens stated that he did want to get involved in the matter. Owens stated that he felt that he really didn't have much to offer on the case anyway.
- Frank Bowen sent Owens an e-mail in December 2011 asking questions about a tribal agreement and Owens thought it was strange that Frank did not bring up the Beaverhead elk case. Owens kind of laughed here saying he thought maybe Frank was just trying to break the ice, but still Owens did not mention that he was present at the elk camp in 2009.
- An e-mail was sent to Owens by Warden Frank Bowen on Jan. 28, 2012 (See exhibit 4) asking Owens if he was in the elk camp in 2009. Owens replied on 1/30/2012 (See exhibit 5) stating "pretty sure I was there in 2009". Owens states that he got to camp late and he talks about Reid's truck trouble and that he gave him a ride. In the e-mail Owens states that a kid killed an elk. (It appears that Owens could not remember the kid's name).
- Owens stated that he never hunted on the trip.

- Owens stated that some time in 2/2012 Frank Bowen called him to ask him some more questions.
- Owens stated that sometime after arriving in camp, Reno showed him his elk and the single hole in the chest.
- When the interview was over with Frank, Owens told me that Frank said something like well that really doesn't help my case. I asked Owens if that is the exact wording that Frank used. Owens stated that I can't remember exactly how it was said. I asked him if could have something like "Well that doesn't really add to my case." Owens thought about and said yeah it could have been something like that.
- Owens stated that he didn't think that Frank left out his interview for any malicious reason.
- I asked about the interview that Randy Owens had with CA Mitch Young about this case. I said if your name wasn't in the original report how would Mitch Young know to get a hold of you for your statement? Owens stated that a couple of days after the Frank Bowen interview Owens told Cottle and Nash about the interview with Frank Bowen. It was Owens belief that they told CA Mitch Young about the Owens interview. I asked Owens if he gave details of the interview and he said he told them everything.
- I continued by asking Owens if he thought that was appropriate to not come forward(for over a year) because you did not want to become involved. Then when you were asked about the case you gave your statement and then two days later you told the subjects of the investigation what you said to the investigator. Owens said that in hind sight maybe he shouldn't have told Cottle and Nash about the interview.
- I told Owens that I found it hard to believe that after two years, a very late night, with little sleep, alcohol involved, a juvenile you couldn't remember his name that it was possible to remember a bullet wound and where it was located and that there were no other bullet wounds present. I asked Owens if they (Him, Cottle, and Nash) had discussed the events during this investigation to come up with a story. Owens stated no this is what I remember.
- Owens stated that it was Cottle and Nash's right to refuse to cooperate in the investigation, but if there was nothing to hide why not talk. I said right it appears that they are hiding something and Owens said well I don't know and gave a nervous laugh.
- Owens again reiterated that he had never seen any photo's of the elk.
- Owens again said that Frank shouldn't get into any trouble over this, he felt that it was just an omission on Frank's part. I stated ironic that you didn't come forward for over a year because you didn't want to get involved and that after Frank had his report completed your name pops up in a follow-up interview with Levi Reid as "the Polson MHP Sgt. was there as well) and Frank is getting accused of leaving out information, when you didn't ever want to talk regarding this case. Owens again gives a nervous laugh and said well....
- Owens asked me what the statute of limitations was in a case like this. I told him three years and he replied OH it's not a year? I said know in Fish and Game cases it is three years. Owens then stated well I don't know what would happen to a guy a finished off an elk for a kid. (Indicating that he had been told this story by someone in the camp such as Cottle or Nash). This statement was contradictory to what Owens stated earlier about what he was told about the elk.
- I gave Owens my card and said that this thing was small and could be taken care easily if some people would come forward and tell the truth here. I told Owens I had the authority to take care of this if these guys want to talk.
- We parted company.



**March 9, 2012 "Interview of Levi Reid"**

**I interviewed Levi Reid at his residence in Ronan, MT. Reid stated the following:**

- **Levi was invited to the Bloody Dick camp because he had horses.**
- **Levi stated that his dad Tim went as well.**
- **Levi stated that they had truck trouble and did not get into camp late that night.**
- **Levi stated that Randy Owens came to help them out with their breakdown and that Levi rode back to camp with Randy Owens.**
- **I asked Levi if there was drinking going on in the camp and he said "They were shitfaced drunk!" He said Randy was the worst and that when he picked him up Randy Owens was drinking while driving.**
- **Levi was told that Reno killed an elk and that surprised Levi because he had taken Reno out shooting and he was a very poor shot as a new hunter.**
- **Eventually Levi stated that he went over to look at the elk the next morning and he saw the wound to the head and he knew that from experience the wound was not caused by the gun that Reno was using.**
- **Levi said that he saw a blown up head on the elk and no other wound. The wound was typical of a large caliber gun not a .257 Roberts caliber.**
- **Levi challenged Clint's story of how the elk hunt occurred. Clint said that Reno fired and the elk scattered. Nash went one way and Cottle went with Reno. Cottle said the elk were running in the bottom and the last elk stopped and looked back and Cottle said he shot it in the head.**
- **Levi stated that he first told this story when he was questioned and read his Miranda warning by Warden Frank Bowen. Levi stated that he was asked if he was aware of any poaching activity and Levi said that he was not going to lie for anyone and he told the story that Cottle told him about the elk hunt.**
- **Levi stated that Wade Nash has been poaching for a long time. He relayed stories of bull elk that he felt Nash had been shooting on the reservation. Also, of over limits of geese that he had seen photo's of Nash with. He said they grind them up and make sausage out of them.**
- **Reid said that Cottle confronted him after Reid gave his statement and said something like I can't believe that I am going to lose my job because I shot an elk for a kid.**
- **I asked Reid if he was friends with these guys and he said they were mad at him for awhile, but lately they were talking to him like nothing was wrong.**
- **That is when I asked him "so they would talk to you if you called them on the phone?" Reid said yes they would. I was amazed that they were still talking to Reid.**
- **Reid offered on his own will that he call them and talk about this deal.**
- **Reid called both Nash and Cottle. While these calls were made I went to my vehicle in the driveway and shut the door and rolled the windows up while Reid talked to the two individuals.**
- **Reid taped these conversations and I have a copy of these discussions.**
- **Cottle did not talk but Nash did.**

**Notes from Nash and Reid's conversation: (Exhibit 6 taped conversation)**

- Reid acted very nervous and agitated and stated I don't know why you guys don't just come clean on this. Now you are dragging Randy Owens in this.
  - Levi told Nash that Captain Darrah asked if there was alcohol in the camp.
  - Nash played off the alcohol and stated we weren't drinking that much, then he wasn't sure if there was even alcohol in the camp, then said if there was it was very little.
  - Reid told Nash that he told Captain Darrah that Owens was drinking when he picked him for the ride. Nash laughed and said well I didn't know that.
  - Nash said that he had photos of the elk, bullet, heart and teeth belonging to Reno's elk and that he was going to turn this stuff into the Beaverhead County Attorney. He said that the attorney then could decide what to do.
  - Nash stated that they were afraid that if they came forward that the press would make them look like poachers and that they could lose their jobs.
  - Nash stated that he had been charged for transportation and possession of the elk that Clint shot for the kid.
  - Nash said that he agreed that he should talk to Captain Darrah and get this behind them, but he would have to talk to Clint and then they would call Captain Darrah.
  - Nash was aware of the interview between Bowen and Owens. Nash said that Frank left that out on purpose to get them.
  - Reid made some statements on his own such as "Frank is a loose cannon". Reid said that he was only doing this to get Nash to talk openly to him and that he truly didn't think Frank was a lose cannon.
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• March 12, 2012 "Interview of Jennifer Cannon"

This was a taped interview and done over the phone. (Exhibit 7) The following are summaries of points from that interview.

- I told Jennifer who I was and that I was investigating an alleged misconduct allegation of Warden Frank Bowen. I made it clear that I was not going to ask anything other than her dealings with Warden Bowen.
- Jennifer was pleasant to talk to and very cooperative.
- I asked her if she knew what the word coercion meant and she said yes.
- I asked her if in her interviews with Warden Bowen if she felt that she was coerced to give a statement.
- Jennifer stated that she felt pressured to give the statements and that Frank told her she could lose her job. I asked her how that was said and went further and said did Frank say you would lose your job if you wouldn't talk or that you would lose your job if you didn't tell the truth. Jennifer said that it was the latter and that made her very nervous.
- I asked her if the nature of the questions made her uneasy and she said yes. She stated that Frank was just doing his job. She reiterated that she wasn't coerced just very uncomfortable about answering the questions because of their nature.

- I asked Jennifer if she knew CA Mitch Young from Lake County and she stated yes she did. I asked her when the last time was when she had talked to him. Jennifer stated that it was not that long ago maybe a couple of weeks ago.
  - She stated that she called CA Mitch Young to inquire where all the Lake County stuff was at and to see if Mitch Young would be a reference for her.
  - I asked Jennifer if CA Mitch Young brought up Warden Frank Bowen and she said that he did and I asked what was discussed.
  - Jennifer said that CA Mitch Young had been looking at Franks reports (See Exhibit 8) and that it looked like Frank had forced her to give a statement by threatening her. Jennifer said they discussed that and she did say that she did not feel comfortable and that she felt that she could lose her job if she didn't cooperate with Frank. I read a portion of (Exhibit 8) where it was in Frank's report that MLEA Post gave Frank the ok to tell Jennifer that if she didn't talk that Post could compel her to talk. I asked Jennifer if Frank told her that and she said no Frank did not make me aware of that.
  - I asked her again if she felt that Frank threatened her to make her statements and she said no he did not threaten me.
  - Jennifer asked me if I had taped the interview and I said "yes".
  - Jennifer then asked me if I had the reports there in front of me and asked if I could refresh her memory on what was on the reports of her statements. She also asked if there was anything there important. I told her there several statements there and that wasn't the nature of my call and I didn't feel that I could discuss that with her.
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#### **March 12, 2012 "Interview of Warden Frank Bowen"**

**This was a telephonic interview of Warden Frank Bowen conducted by me. (I taped this interview) Listed below are highlights from that interview.**

- Frank stated that he hand delivered a case report (See Exhibit 3) to the Beaverhead County Attorney on 2/7/12 regarding the Dillon elk case involving Nash and Cottle.
- Frank stated that shortly after that he provided a copy of the report to Lake CA Mitch Young as well.
- Frank stated that the first time he had heard that MHP Sgt. Randy Owens was even in camp was from a follow-up interview that he had conducted with witness Levi Reid that occurred on 1/27/12. Reid stated that there was a MHP officer there in camp and that he was the Polson area Sgt. , but Levi could not remember his name.
- Frank was able to track down Owens by inquiring with another MHP officer and he was told he that officer that he thought Randy Owens would be a straight shooter if questioned.
- Frank sent Owens an e-mail on 1/28/12 (Exhibit 4) asking if he had been in the elk camp in question. Owens replied 2 days later (Exhibit 5).



- Owens told Warden Bowen that he did not go hunting and that some kid in camp had killed a cow elk. (This is significant) Owens did not know the kid's name.
- Frank set up a telephonic interview with MHP Sgt. Randy Owens on 2/6/12 the day before he turned in the report to the Beaverhead County Attorney. This interview was not taped, but Warden Bowen did take notes of the interview.
- Owens did state that he was at an elk camp in 2009 in the Dillon area, but he could not remember the date he thought it was around Thanksgiving.
- Owens was told a kid had killed an elk, but even at the time of this interview Owens could not remember the kid's name. He thought the kid was a son of one of the officers.
- Owens thought Tim Reid was Nash or Cottle's father and he didn't remember Corey Anderson being there.
- Frank immediately thought that Randy Owens could not remember anything correctly.
- Frank asked Owens about the elk. Owens said the kid did show him the elk and that the kid seemed quite proud of it. Owens stated that he remembered a hole in the shoulder of the elk.
- Frank asked him about the bullet hole in the head and if he remembered that hole. Owens stated that he was not sure of the bullet holes and Warden Frank Bowen took that as if he wasn't sure about any of the bullet holes, not just the head wound.
- I asked Warden Bowen why he didn't include his interview with Randy Owens in his case report. Warden Bowen stated that Owens was so unsure of the facts and that he really didn't add to the case either way, so he didn't include him as a witness.
- Frank Bowen said he was trying to keep his case report as simple as possible and others had stated the same things that Owens did so he added nothing significant to the case.
- Frank doesn't remember saying that doesn't help my case. Frank stated if he did say that he meant it in a fashion that meant you don't really have anything to add or subtract from the case.
- I read the statements in CA Mitch Young's e-mail regarding Owens statement and the conversation that he had with Reno. The statement attributed to Randy Owens, is pretty clear that the name Reno shows up several times, but in reality Owens did not know the kids name, so it had to have been supplied for him or added to his statement by CA Mitch Young.
- I asked Frank if he did not include the interview of Owens to purposely suppress evidence and Frank said "NO", I didn't include him because he had nothing significant to add to the case.
- Frank Bowen said I did nothing wrong and certainly nothing unethical as I am being accused.

**I did not interview the following people; CA Mitch Young, Corey Anderson, Clint Cottle, Kim Liebenguth and Wade Nash. (most of these folks had already invoked or gave a statement that they were moving off of.)**

**I did talk with Polson Police Chief Wade Nash to try to see if there was a resolution to this situation. I placed a call to Nash and left him a message on 3/9/12. We played phone tag for awhile, but on 3/13/12 Nash contacted me via cell phone. Nash made the following statements:**

- **He thought sitting down and trying to figure this out was certainly an option.**
- **Nash asked if I was going to arrest him if we met? I said "NO" if I was going to arrest you for something I would have done that already, he laughed.**
- **Nash stated that he had evidence that should come out in this case and he asked if he should bring it. I said that would be good and that was up to him.**
- **Nash went on to say that he had photo's of both of Reno's elk, a bullet, elk teeth and even an elk heart that he has saved because he thought that he might need them some say. (?)**
- **Nash said he would talk to Cottle and get back to me. I agreed.**
- **Nash did not want Frank Bowen present and or Lee Anderson. I agreed that could be done.**

**Nash did not call back Wed. or Thurs. so I left him messages asking if he was going to call me back.**

**On 3/16/12 Nash called me apologizing for not calling sooner. Nash said he talked to his Attorney Ted Chester and he was advised not to meet with me to resolve this issue. I said that was fine it was up to him. I was finishing my report to provide to Chief Kropp and that I would be in contact with the Beaverhead County Attorney's Office regarding the case. Nash felt that it could still all be resolved without going to court, but it would have to be through the attorney's. I said no problem we'll do it that way.**

**SUMMARY RESPONSE TO THE ALLEGATIONS MADE BY CA MITCH YOUNG**

Jim you may not want to include this part in this report, but I felt compelled to make a few comments here.

- **First of all this format (an e-mail?) from CA Mitch Young was totally inappropriate. The mass mailing is also very inappropriate and has potential detrimental effects to not only Warden Frank Bowen, but to FWP in general.**
- **It appears that CA Mitch Young is trying to discredit Warden Frank Bowen in every way possible. This seems inappropriate from a prosecutor's office, maybe from a defense attorney I would expect such a thing.**
- **Early in the e-mail it appears that CA Mitch Young is saying that Warden Bowen is operating on hearsay evidence, it appears that is exactly what CA Mitch Young is doing here.**
- **I talked to the female witness in this case "Jennifer Cannon". CA Mitch Young states that Warden Frank Bowen threatened a witness to compel her to make a statement. I taped the interview and it was CA Mitch Young that planted this seed in Jennifer Cannon's mind via a telephone call that occurred previous to this e-mail of Young's. Jennifer Cannon stated clearly that she wasn't threatened or coerced to give a statement. (I would suggest that CA Mitch Young tampered with a witness "Jennifer Cannon" in an existing Ravalli County Case by talking to her about what she said to Frank Bowen and trying to change her statement in the Ravalli County Case)**
- **I would like to see the list of several others that Mitch Young says is out there where Frank threatened them. This statement is vague, but very damaging to Frank.**
- **I have found that Frank has taped interviews that haven't been provided to CA Mitch Young, but it has been brought to my attention that recently 11 pounds of paperwork have been delivered to MLEA Post.**
- **The conversation or interview of MHP Randy Owens by CA Mitch Young is also very interesting in the fact that it is a Beaverhead County Case, but Mitch seems to be conducting his own investigation. It appears that Young was made aware of an interview between Frank Bowen and MHP Owens (by either Cottle or Nash) and that Frank did not include that in his report, so it is**

said that Frank withheld exculpatory evidence. Warden Bowen gives a very understandable version of why Owens was not included in the report.

- Owens did not know the kids name (Reno) when interviewed by Frank Bowen on 2/6/12, but it is clear in Mitch Young's e-mail that Randy Owens knew the kids name as he is quoted several times using the name. Frank never told Owens the kids name, but someone did. It appears that MHP Owens has had his memory refreshed by someone. This leads one to believe that Nash and Cottle are talking directly to Young about the case and what Owens told Frank Bowen.
- There is evidence out there that refutes the statement of Randy Owens and it is possessed by Wade Nash by his own admission, but it has not been revealed as of yet. There is a photo of the elk with its head blown apart (solidifies the statement of Levi Reid) and supposedly a hole in the shoulder.
- Personally I feel that CA Mitch Young is trying to kill Frank Bowen's credibility and thus have this case go away with possibly several others.
- In general I feel what happened here is somewhere in the middle. The most reasonable explanation is that Reno shot at an elk with a small caliber gun and didn't make a fatal shot. The elk ran off and in the heat of the moment Clint Cottle chased the running elk and caught up to a cow elk that was looking back and he shot it in the head, whether there was a previous wound or not Cottle had no right to even be shooting at the elk. Cottle should be charged in my opinion in this case.